

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view showing the friction roller of the invention. FIG. 14 is a 3-D exploded view showing the friction roller of the invention. As shown in FIGS. 13 and 14, the friction roller 2 includes an outer column 21 and an inner column 22. An outer surface of the outer column 21 is usually coated with a layer of rubber material. The outer column 21 and is formed with a first hole 27 and in contact with the separating roller 1 in the first rotating state, ~~the~~ The inner column 22 is formed with a second hole 28 to fit with the first shaft 3, and the inner column 22 is arranged within the first hole 27 of the outer column 21. That is, the inner column 22 is rotatably supported on the first shaft 3 and arranged within the outer column 21. The inner column 22 and the first hole 27 may have circular or rectangular cross sections as long as their cross sections may fit with each other. The inner column 22 includes a first column 23 and a second column 24. The second column 24 is connected to the first column 23, and the inner column 22 is fixed to the outer column 21 through the first column 23. For example, a keyway 32 of the outer column 21 may be fit with a slot 31 of the first column 23. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The inner column 22 is formed with ~~a long slot~~ an opening 25, which extends ~~along in~~ an axial direction of the first shaft 3 and communicates with the second hole 28. In this embodiment, the opening 25 is lengthwise formed on a surface of the inner column 22. The friction roller 2 further includes a resilient member 29, which may be a helical spring or an

elastic ring. The inner column 22 is fit with the resilient member 29 and is shrunk to contact the first shaft 3, thereby generating the damping torque. As shown in FIGS. 13 and 14, the resilient member 29 wraps around the inner column 22 and applies pressure on the inner column 22, such that the inner column 22 and the first shaft 3 act on each other to produce the damping torque. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 15 is a pictorial view showing a friction roller and a brake mechanism according to a fifth embodiment of the invention. FIG. 16 is ~~a 3-D~~ a 3-D exploded view of FIG. 15. Referring to FIGS. 15 and 16, the sheet separator in the embodiment further includes a brake mechanism 50. The brake mechanism 50 includes a support 52 and two elastic sleeves 51, and the support 52 is formed with two holes 53 and gaps 54 communicating with the holes 53. The elastic sleeves 51 provides the damping torque for the first shaft 3 fit therein so as to brake the friction roller 2 and implement the above-mentioned sheet-separation operation. --